

THE STATE CAPITAL.

Lobbyists Controlling the Legislature and Dictating Laws.

PASSAGE OF THE CHARTER IN THE SENATE

Demoralization and Discomfiture of the Seventy Solons.

What They Will Do and What They Won't Do.

Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen Provided For in the Charter.

A Mass of Absurd Incongruities.

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THEAT DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE.

Denial by Mr. Belmont of Its Having Taken Place.

Who Were There and What Was Resolved On.

POSSUM! POSSUM! POSSUM!

The Blockade of the Rio Grande Raised.

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1872.

The Late Democratic Conference—A Mirage Denial—The Impracticability and the Hopefulness.

The meeting at Welcker's on Wednesday evening has been the occasion of a good deal of discussion among the old-fashioned democrats in Congress who believe in the party but were not invited to meet Mr. Belmont. The report of the proceedings of the conference which was printed in the Herald created much surprise on the one hand, and consternation on the other. There are a great many democrats who will not favor the acceptance of the nominee of the Cincinnati Convention, and these not only made themselves felt at the conference, but their disapprobation was so strong that Mr. Belmont was induced to authorize a denial that any conference had taken place. If seventy Congressmen meeting Mr. Belmont in a room by themselves for a specific purpose—that purpose being to call together as to the proper time for calling the Democratic Convention—does not constitute a conference it is difficult to conceive what a conference is according to the understanding of the Chairman of the Democratic National Executive Committee.

The full story of what took place has a new interest from the fact that Mr. Belmont would have the people believe that no meeting had been held. Nobody doubts that Mr. Belmont was in Washington. He came here on his way to Kentucky, where he intends buying horses for the spring races at Jerome Park, and during his stay he tried to find out something about the political course.

For this purpose he asked many of the leading men in the House of Congress to meet him at Welcker's, as has already been reported in the Herald, and not fewer than seventy persons responded. Among them were Representative Parker of New Hampshire; Representatives Cox, Wood, Slocum and Williams of New York; Representative Sherwood of Pennsylvania; Senator Bayard of Delaware; Senator Hamilton and Representatives Swann and Merrick of Maryland; Senator Davis and Representative Hereford of West Virginia; Representative Harris of Virginia; Representative Waddell of North Carolina; Representative Campbell of Ohio; Senator Stevenson and Representatives Beck and McHenry of Kentucky; Representatives Caldwell and Whitthorne of Tennessee; Representatives Kerr and Niblack of Indiana; Representatives Marshall and McNeely of Illinois; Representative Eldridge of Wisconsin; Senator Blair of Missouri; Senator Cassey of California, and Senator Kelly of Oregon.

These gentlemen and the others who met with them were selected because they were considered representative democrats and the proper persons to give expression to the sentiment of the different parts of the Union. Mr. Belmont presented the guests, and opened the meeting by asking an expression of opinion which would be taken as indicating Mr. Belmont on the question, not so much as the time of holding the democratic convention as to the propriety of calling the democratic committee together for the purpose of naming the time. This was very significant. Mr. Niblack being the only member of the committee present besides Mr. Belmont, and the time when it should meet very important in view of the conflicts in both parties. Strange to say, Senator Blair seemed to desert his people in Missouri, and made a speech as if to direct the National Committee to meet at once, even if it should be thought desirable not to call the National Convention for an early day. For an hour or two this seemed to be the tenor and effect of the discussion, Beck, Kerr, Bayard, Whitthorne, Niblack, Eldridge and all the impracticables thinking they saw wisdom in it. Mr. Belmont considered and retired. After all this talk looking the scene away from Cincinnati to the disconcerted but undaunted republicans who do not want to make a farce of their convention.

S. Cox, Campbell, Harris, of Virginia, and Cassey and Stevenson broke in with very strong statements, by which they sought to make it clear and beyond question that democratic policy and principle, and democratic sense demanded a perfect accord on the proposition of co-operation with the Cincinnati Convention. This co-operation, they thought, would not embarrass, but help, and to help it should be so organized as to make it effectual, and to be effectual there must be no interference with the Cincinnati Convention by democrats.

Mr. Belmont heard all the statements. He goes to Kentucky to buy race horses. He is in no hurry to call the committee. The Convention will not be called until after the Cincinnati Convention meets. It is solemnly proposed to let that Convention by honest effort and reticence, and next, to keep the democratic organization perfect and intact for the future.

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